

second recess includes a pair of substantially aligned notches, each of which respectively fixedly interengages said base and said side wall of said channel.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The bracket of claim 14 23 in which said channel and

said tubular components include respective longitudinal axes that are oriented at obtuse angles relative to one another.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The bracket of claim 23 in which said channel includes at least two holes for receiving a connector that is attachable to the beam.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The bracket of claim 23 in which each receptacle includes at least one hole for receiving a connector that is attachable to the leg received by the receptacle.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The bracket of claim 23 in which said channel comprises an elongate one-piece component that extends longitudinally beyond said leg accommodating receptacles.

Claim 22 (cancelled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): A bracket for a multiple piece stand, which stand includes a plurality of elongate legs and an elongate beam supported on a substantially horizontal surface by the legs, said bracket comprising:

a substantially rigid and one piece, generally U-shaped channel for receiving the beam, said channel including a base and a pair of side walls attached unitarily to and extending upwardly from said base, said base comprising an elongate, one piece element that is substantially rigid and substantially planar and each said side

wall comprising an elongate, substantially rigid and substantially planar component, said base and said side walls including respective interior surfaces that are substantially flat and smooth for conformably receiving and interengaging the elongate beam; and

a pair of leg accommodating receptacles comprising respective tubular components that are fixedly and rigidly interconnected to one another through said channel, said receptacles including a first receptacle fixedly joined to said channel and having a first recess for interengaging said base and a first one of said side walls of said channel, and a second receptacle fixedly joined to said channel and having a second recess for interengaging said base and a second one of the side walls of said channel, said first and second receptacles being juxtaposed along and extending divergently from said channel at a fixed angle relative to one another, each receptacle being capable of receiving a respective leg, which legs are engagable with the substantially horizontal surface to support the beam above the substantially horizontal surface, said first recess including a pair of substantially aligned notches, each of which respectively fixedly interengages said base and a first side wall of said channel.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A bracket system for a multiple piece stand, which stand includes a plurality of elongate legs and an elongate beam supported on a substantially horizontal surface by the legs, said bracket system comprising:

a first bracket including a substantially rigid first channel for receiving the beam, said first channel including a first base and a first pair of side walls attached unitarily to and extending upwardly from said first base, and a first pair of

leg accommodating receptacles fixedly and rigidly interconnected to one another through said first channel including a first receptacle that has a first recess for interengaging said base and one of said side walls of said first channel and a second receptacle that has a second recess for interengaging said base and the other of said side walls of said first channel, said first and second receptacles of said first bracket being juxtaposed along and extending divergently from said first channel at a fixed angle relative to one another, and

a second bracket including a substantially rigid second channel for receiving the beam, said second channel including a second base and a second pair of side walls attached unitarily to and extending upwardly from said second base, and a second pair of leg accommodating receptacles fixedly and rigidly interconnected to one another through said second channel and including a third receptacle that has a third recess for interengaging said second base and one of said side walls of said second channel and a fourth receptacle that has a fourth recess for interengaging said second base and the other side wall of said second channel, said third and fourth receptacles of said second bracket being juxtaposed along and extending divergently from said second channel at a fixed angle relative to one another;

each of said receptacles of said first and second brackets being capable of receiving a respective leg, which legs are engagable with the substantially horizontal surface to support the beam above the substantially horizontal surface;

said base and said side walls of each channel having substantially